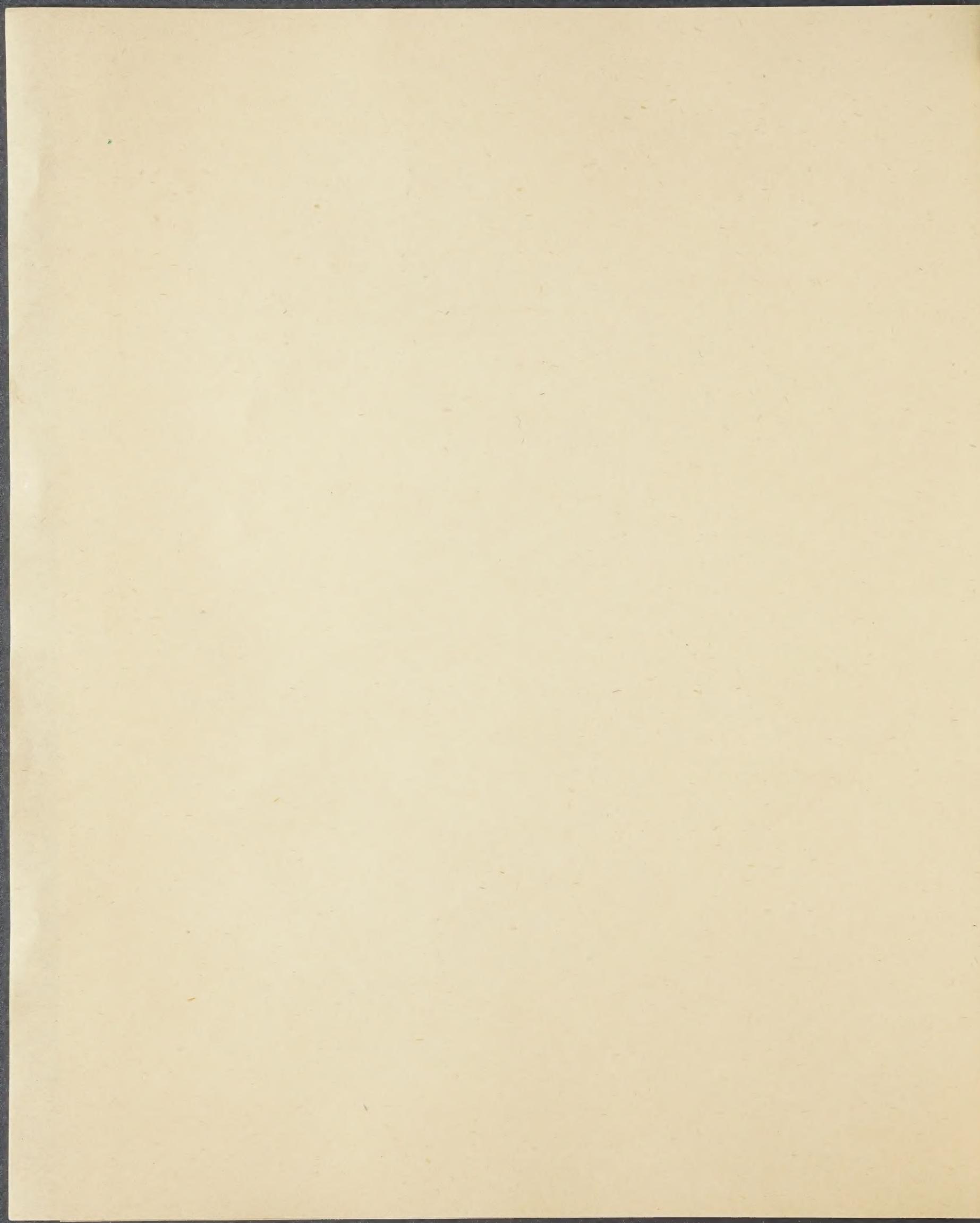


Alexander, William John

Aug 1915



University College

TORONTO,

Aug 5th 1515

Dear President Falconer

I have received your letter & will keep the papers as you wish. I was extraordinarily interested in Mr Smith's letter, but I cannot accept his propositioes. It seems to me that he writes like a man abnormally obsessed by certain ideas.

In the first place, from our point of view, I think Mr Smith would be a most desirable accession. Even supposing - as with my ^{limited} knowledge of him - seems quite possible that at his age, he might not be wholly successful as a teacher of ordinary classes, the addition of such a man to the English staff would greatly strengthen it in the side of scholarship & distinction, and certainly for graduate work.

But on the other hand, from the point of view of his interests, the ~~idea~~ seems absurd. A salary of £1000 (presumably with pension in future) must be quite a handsome income in the Old Country. I should think he might well be able to make some provision for his daughters out of it. Whereas Stevenson - although Mrs S. is very capable, & they had only the one little child - found it ^{on his salary} uneasy matter to get along. I should judge that no doubt the openings for women are likely to be greater in Canada than in Scotland, but certainly there is no brilliant outlook even here. I often wonder what is to happen to my own girls. Then what a multitude of women

Sacrefices are involved in a man of his age & position changing
his environment from Edinburgh to Toronto! I cannot but
think he would have a most disagreeable awakening
sooner or later, should he come here. The truth is, he seems
to me, as I said before, like a man whose balance is upset by
hunger & fear of social change - especially in Canada. Naturally
no doubt we will be after the war in a better position than
Britain after the war, though I have no idea whether her
black reputation in this regard are justified. But why is
society in such a bad condition over there, should not
be in a better case ~~than~~? I feel pretty confident that for
a long time yet, Britain is likely to be a better government
country, with broader public opinion than either Canada
or the United States. Of course if a man has the distrust
that no small loss of democracy [intervening] in the light
of what you say as to his personal destiny, what is then to
look forward to in this world?

Rimus, I judge might be a suitable man for a junior
appointment - say on a level with Clark. He seems to be an
Englishman however, not a Scotchman. But I don't if it is
wise to make a junior appointment this year. What we
need is a strong Canadian man, in view especially of the fact
that my own tenure must be nearing its close. I think that
at least this season we may see what we can do with a
smaller staff - unless indeed the right man is available.

I am glad you are having a peaceful holiday, & that the boys
are so much better. If you take them back to Toronto cold, that will
be a great relaxation of strain. We are all well. Morrow has obtained his "flying"
certificate, has been accepted in the naval aerial service. He is with us for a few days
but, I suppose, may be ordered thence at any moment. W. J. Alexander

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH.

De Graw Point, Ct.

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University College.

TORONTO.

Aug. 23^d 1915

Dear Mr President,

I enclose the letters addressed to
P. Clarsen. If we can accept the judgment of the writers
he seems to a very likely candidate. His presumable age,
varied experience, standing in scholarship as shown
points in his favour. If he is what I learn him to be,
our putting him above Clark is magnificently justifiable.
One might from his general hered. ^{Judge} suppose him philosophical
but we may, I suppose, accept the testimony to the contrary

I shall be encarried to Scleris on letter & Lloyd's
pinion.

We shall be ^{back} in Toronto the end of next week or
the beginning of the following week, when the Seine
will open. Morrow sailed for Syland last week

Yours very sincerely

R. J. Alexander